MARVEL
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MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™
THE X-MEN® & HAVOK™
THE FINAL CHAPTER!
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
A NEW SERIES
EXCALIBUR
THE BEGINNING OF THE END?!
...OF COURSE YOU KNOW, THIS MEANS WAR!

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

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Stan Lee Presents:
HAVOK "PHARAOH'S LEGACY" 1
WRITER — Howard Mackie
BREAKDOWNS — Rich Buckler
FINISHES — Bruce Patterson
LETTERER — Bill Oakley
COLORIST — Andy Yanchus

"A HEART ATTACKED" — PART 8 OF 8
Confronting the Queen of the Cult of the Living Pharaoh, Plasma, Havok learns that she is Leila O'Toole, the woman he has pursued half way around the world. Now, in a final showdown, Plasma's ultimate plan is revealed . . .

BLACK PANTHER "PANTHER'S QUEST" 9
WRITER — Don McGregor
PENCILER — Gene Colan
INKER — Tom Palmer
LETTERER — Jade Moede
COLORIST — Mike Rockwitz

"CHANCES" — PART 19 OF 25
The Black Panther and Zanti Chikane bottle Elmer "Sex 'N' Violence" Gore's mercenaries and Patrick Slade's curio shop. Slade's throat has been slit and his memories of how he learned about the Panther's mother silenced. Minister of Security Doeke Riebeeck and Sergeant Van der Merwe are closing in fast on the scene of carnage.

COLDBLOOD "RISE AND SHINE" 17
WRITER — Doug Moench
PENCILER — Paul Gulacy
INKER — Paul Gulacy
LETTERER — Tim Harkins
COLORIST — Glynis Oliver

"RISE AND SHINE" — PART 6 OF 10
Holed up in a Vegas motel, Coldblood learns of his past from his computer. Before dying, he was Lt.-Col. Eric Savin, head of security for an ultra-secret military project. In attempting to help Gina Dyson expose the truth of that project — that it was being used by Mako as a cover to create viable cyborgs destined to serve mysterious masters — Savin was killed . . .

EXCALIBUR "HAVING A WILD WEEKEND" 25
WRITER — Michael Higgins
PENCILER — Erik Larson
INKER — Terry Austin
LETTERER — Tim Harkins
COLORIST — Tom Vincent

"HAVING A WILD WEEKEND" — PART 1 OF 8
All that was planned was a peaceful weekend at home. Isn't it funny how things never work out the way you plan? Along comes the Loonies and Excalibur will never be the same.

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PHARAOH'S LEGACY PART VIII
STARRING: HAVOK
A HEART ATTACKED!
YOU?
YOU'RE PLASMA?!

DON'T LOOK SO SHOCKED, NAVOK. SURELY YOU MUST HAVE SUSPECTED.
HOW, LEILA? WHY?
I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO YOU--
--JUST COME WITH ME.
I CAN'T LEAVE WOLVERINE LYING THERE.
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR FRIEND. MY MEN WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM.
I GIVE YOU MY WORD AS QUEEN THAT HE WILL COME TO NO FURTHER HARM.
YOUR WORD?
TRY NOT TO SOUND SO BITTER, ALEX.
I'VE NEVER LIED TO YOU--
--THOUGH THERE WERE THINGS THAT I NEGLECTED TO TELL YOU WHEN WE FIRST MET!
I REALLY WAS INDOCTRINATED INTO THE CULT OF THE LIVING PHARAOH QUITE INNOCENTLY.
"AND AS I TOLD YOU, I WAS SHOCKED BY ONE OF THE RITUAL SACRIFICES I WATCHED.
"I TOLD YOU THE TRUTH WHEN I SAID I HAD RUN AWAY.
"I DIDN'T TELL YOU I WAS CAPTURED BY A TRACKER IMMEDIATELY.
"THE HIGH PRIEST OF THE CULT GAVE ME INFORMATION THAT INTRIGUED ME ENOUGH FOR ME TO TRY WORKING FOR THEM.
"I WAS SENT TO AUSTRALIA TO HELP CAPTURE YOU.
"IT WAS MY JOB TO ACT AS BAIT WHILE THE MERCENARIES CARRIED OUT THE REAL PLAN."

"THEIR JOB WAS TO ENGAGE YOU IN A SUBSTANCE WHICH WOULD ALLOW YOU TO LIVE--
"--THOUGH YOU WOULD BE SHIELDED FOREVER FROM THE COSMIC RAYS THAT FUEL YOUR POWERS.

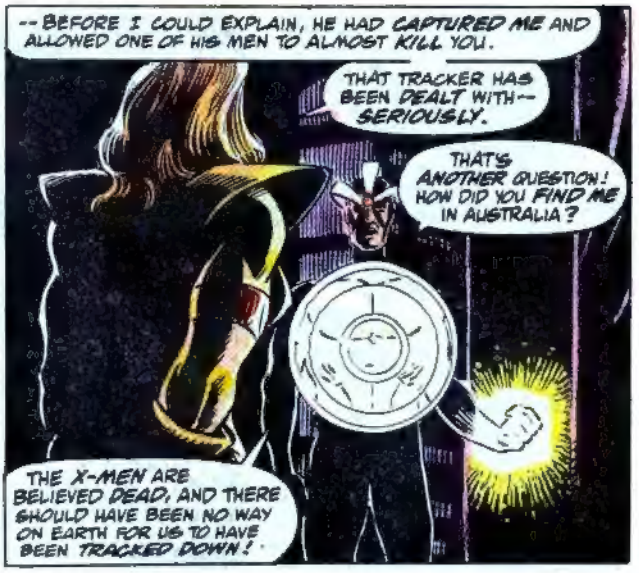
"THE CULT HAD HOPED THAT BY DOING THIS A NEW LEADER WOULD ARISE FROM ONE OF THE DESCENDANTS OF THE LIVING PHARAOH.
"ONE WHO WAS LINKED WITH YOU IN A SIMILAR WAY AS THE LIVING PHARAOH HIMSELF AND WOULD BE REVEALED TO HAVE SIMILAR LATENT MUTANT POWERS.

"THE FIRST TIME YOU USED YOUR POWERS NEAR ME I KNEW THAT-- I PHYSICALLY FELT-- IT WAS WRONG TO SHIELD YOU AWAY FROM THE COSMIC RAYS.
"I COULDN'T LET IT HAPPEN.

"I DIDN'T."

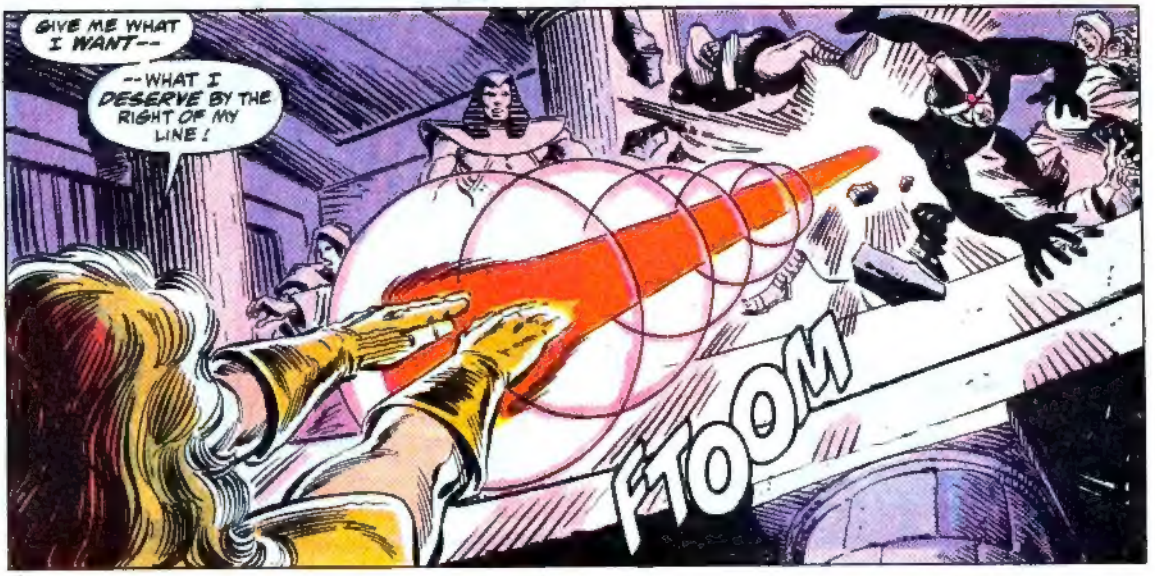
FOR I AM THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE THRONE OF THE LIVING PHARAOH.
HE WAS MY UNCLE. MY MOTHER'S BROTHER. NOW I WILL RECEIVE HIS FULL LEGACY.

BUT WHY DID THEY KIDNAP YOU IF YOU WERE WITH THEM ALL ALONG?
THE SUDDEN REALIZATION OF THE POWER I HAD INHERITED CONFUSED ME TEMPORARILY.
THE TRACKER ACCOMPANYING ME TO AUSTRALIA THOUGHT THAT I HAD BETRAYED THE CULT--


--BEFORE I COULD EXPLAIN, HE HAD CAPTURED ME AND ALLOWED ONE OF HIS MEN TO ALMOST KILL YOU.
THAT TRACKER HAS BEEN DEALT WITH-- SERIOUSLY.
THAT'S ANOTHER QUESTION! HOW DID YOU FIND ME IN AUSTRALIA?
THE X-MEN ARE BELIEVED DEAD, AND THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN NO WAY ON EARTH FOR US TO HAVE BEEN TRACKED DOWN!

DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT THE PSYCHIC BOND YOU SHARED WITH THE LIVING PHARAOH WOULD NOT BE SHARED WITH HIS DESCENDANTS?
DIDN'T YOU FEEL A CLOSENESS TO ME? ALMOST AN ATTRACTION?
BUT ENOUGH OF THESE EXPLANATIONS --IT IS TIME.
TIME? TIME FOR WHAT?
TIME FOR ME TO RECEIVE YOUR GIFT AT ITS FULLEST.
YOU ARE MY DESTINY, ALEX.
YOU ARE MY SOURCE OF STRENGTH --OF POWER.
WHAT I DISCOVERED WHEN YOU FIRST USED YOUR POWERS NEAR ME IN THE DESERT WAS THAT I ABSORBED ALL THE COSMIC RAYS THAT YOU RELEASE.
NOW GIVE ME WHAT I DESIRE, ALEX. RELEASE YOUR ENERGIES AT ME SO THAT I MAY CONTINUE THE RULE OF THE PHARAOHS.
NO.
I WON'T HELP YOU OR YOUR MISGUIDED CULT.
YOU WILL DO AS I SAY--
KPOW
--OR YOU WILL DIE!

DO NOT DENY ME, ALEX!
I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU--
--I NEED YOU. I MAY EVEN LOVE YOU. BUT DO NOT DENY ME!
YOU NEED ME TO USE MY POWER AGAINST YOU SO THAT YOU'LL GROW STRONGER--
--I WON'T ALLOW MYSELF TO BE USED... AGAIN!
YOU WON'T ALLOW...?
YOU CANNOT DENY ME! I AM THE CHOSEN ONE! I ALONE, OF ALL MY COUSINS, SURVIVED AGAINST YOU IN THE ARENA OF DEATH!
I ALONE GREW MORE POWERFUL WITH EACH OF YOUR ENERGY BLASTS!
I COULD RIP YOU IN HALF LIKE THE WORM THAT YOU ARE!
THEN DO IT.
ARRGH!
I CANNOT KILL YOU. I NEED YOU!
WE ARE AS ONE! WITHOUT YOU I AM ONLY HALF OF WHAT I COULD BE!
WH


GIVE ME WHAT I WANT--
--WHAT I DESERVE BY THE RIGHT OF MY LINE!
FTOOM

PLASMA, YOU'RE KILLING YOUR OWN PEOPLE!
ARGH!
FRZZAT!
AIEE!

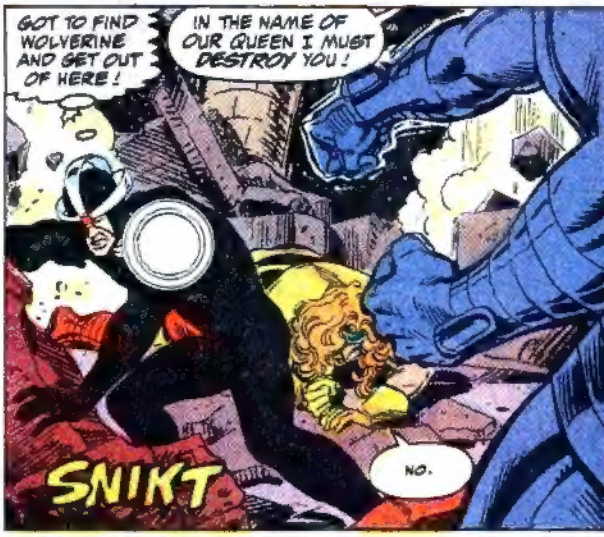
THEY DO NOT MATTER--
--ALL THAT MATTERS IS THE POWER WHICH WILL BE MINE!
NOW GIVE IT TO ME OR MORE SHALL DIE BY MY HAND!

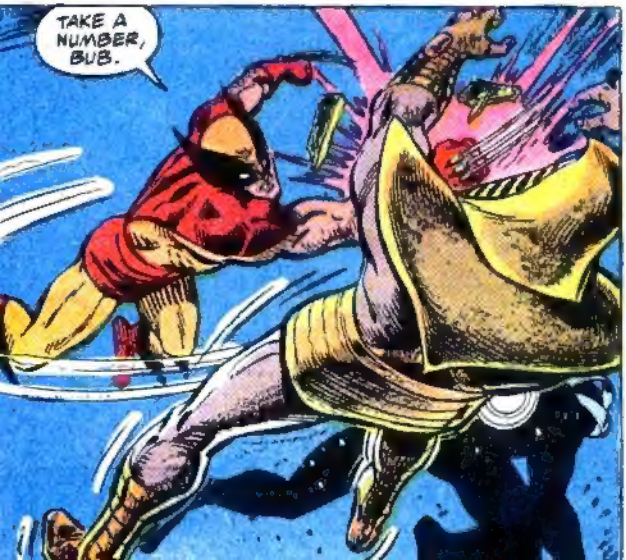
YOU CANNOT DENY ME FOREVER, ALEX!

I CAN--
--AND I WILL!

NO!
FBOOM
I AM PLASMA-- DESCENDANT OF THE LIVING PHARAOH!

HER BLAST WENT STRAIGHT THROUGH THE ROOF--
--THIS WHOLE COMPLEX IS GOING TO CAVE IN IN A COUPLE OF MINUTES!
NO.

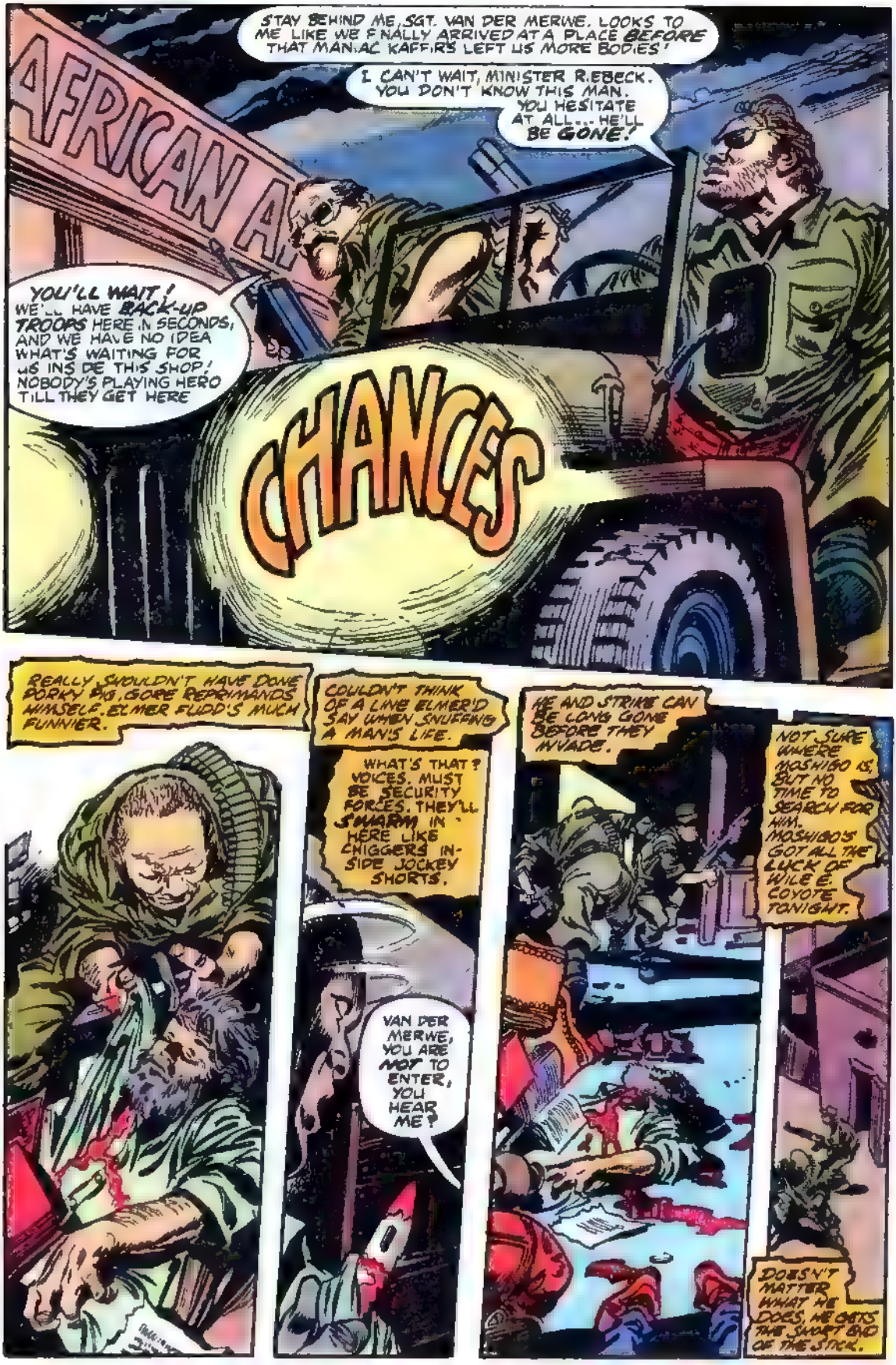

GOT TO FIND WOLVERINE AND GET OUT OF HERE!
IN THE NAME OF OUR QUEEN I MUST DESTROY YOU!
SNIKT
NO.

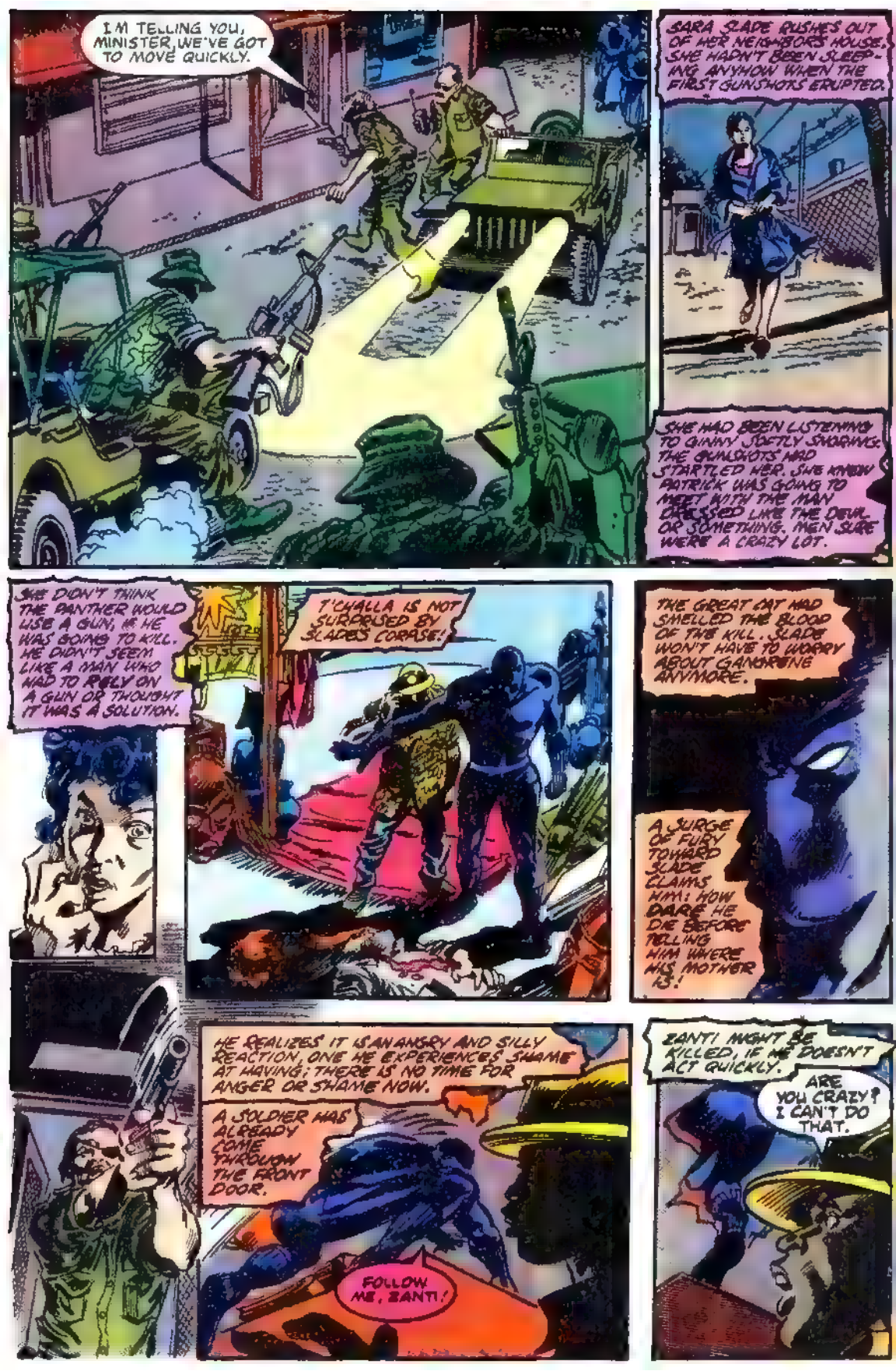

TAKE A NUMBER, BUB.

COME ON, ALEX, WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE WHOLE PLACE COMES DOWN AROUND OUR EARS!

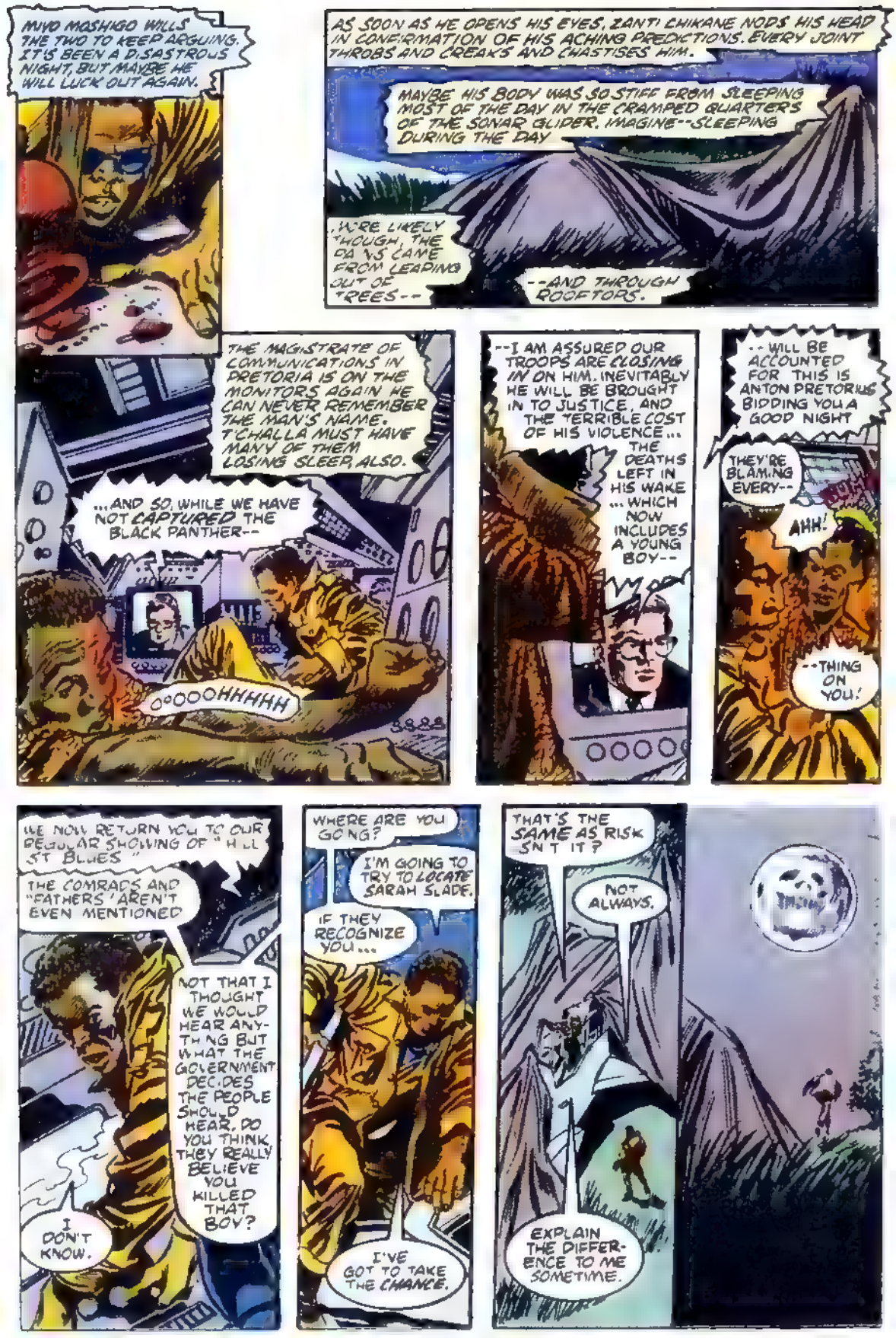
NO, LOGAN, THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF BEFORE WE LEAVE!
ZZAT
ZZAT
YES, YES! THAT'S IT--
--GIVE ME MORE. GIVE ME WHAT I DESERVE!
FWOMP!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU DESERVE, LADY!
AND I SWEAR THAT YOU'RE THE LAST WOMAN THAT WILL EVER USE ME AGAIN!
The End

PANTHER'S QUEST
PART XIX STARRING: THE BLACK PANTHER
"I've noticed in your country (America) that if it's not on the tube then it hasn't happened."
—DENNIS GOLDBERG anti-apartheid activist, the Public Television News Program, South Africa Now
THE GREAT CAT SENSES BLOOD IN THE AIR, BUT HE IS DISTRACTED BY OUTSIDE NOISES OF PROTESTING BRAKES AND TIRE TREADS GOUGING DIRT, RIPPING ALARMINGLY IN HIS EARS
SKRRUU
YUCH
THE HARD BONE-UNDER-FLESH JOLT OF HIS FIST HITTING THIS NAMELESS ENEMY'S FACE IS ANOTHER MOMENTARY DISTRACTION.
YET THE UNDENIABLE SCENT OF SPILLED BLOOD OVER-RIDES THE GREAT CAT'S OTHER ACUTE SENSES.
GORE'S VOICE SPEAKING IN GHOUL-ISH CARTOON MIMICRY LINGERS, WHILE BLOOD SCREAMS IN HIS NOSTRILS!


AFRICAN AFFAIRS
STAY BEHIND ME, SGT. VAN DER MERWE. LOOKS TO ME LIKE WE FINALLY ARRIVED AT A PLACE BEFORE THAT MANIAC KAFFIRS LEFT US MORE BODIES!
I CAN'T WAIT, MINISTER REBECK. YOU DON'T KNOW THIS MAN. YOU HESITATE AT ALL... HE'LL BE GONE!
YOU'LL WAIT! WE'LL HAVE BACK-UP TROOPS HERE IN SECONDS, AND WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S WAITING FOR US INSIDE THIS SHOP! NOBODY'S PLAYING HERO TILL THEY GET HERE
CHANCES
REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE PORKY PIG, GORE REPRIMANDS HIMSELF. ELMER FUDD'S MUCH FUNNIER.
COULDN'T THINK OF A LIVE ELMER'D SAY WHEN SNUFFING A MAN'S LIFE.
WHAT'S THAT? VOICES. MUST BE SECURITY FORCES. THEY'LL SWARM IN HERE LIKE CHIGGERS INSIDE JOCKEY SHORTS.
VAN DER MERWE, YOU ARE NOT TO ENTER, YOU HEAR ME?
HE AND STRIKE CAN BE LONG GONE BEFORE THEY INVADE.
NOT SURE WHERE MOSHIGO IS, BUT NO TIME TO SEARCH FOR HIM. MOSHIGO'S GOT ALL THE LUCK OF WILE E. COYOTE TONIGHT.
DOESN'T MATTER WHAT HE DOES, HE GETS THE SHORT END OF THE STICK.


I'M TELLING YOU, MINISTER, WE'VE GOT TO MOVE QUICKLY.
SARA SLADE PUSHES OUT OF HER NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE. SHE HADN'T BEEN SLEEPING ANYHOW WHEN THE FIRST GUNSHOTS ERUPTED.
SHE HAD BEEN LISTENING TO GINNY SOFTLY SNORING. THE GUNSHOTS HAD STARTLED HER. SHE KNEW PATRICK WAS GOING TO MEET WITH THE MAN DRESSED LIKE THE DEVIL OR SOMETHING. MEN SURE WERE A CRAZY LOT.
SHE DON'T THINK THE PANTHER WOULD USE A GUN, IF HE WAS GOING TO KILL. HE DIDN'T SEEM LIKE A MAN WHO HAD TO RELY ON A GUN OR THOUGHT IT WAS A SOLUTION.
T'CHALLA IS NOT SURPRISED BY SLADE'S CORPSE.
THE GREAT CAT HAD SMELLED THE BLOOD OF THE KILL. SLADE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GANGRENE ANYMORE.
A SURGE OF FURY TOWARD SLADE CLAIMS HIM: HOW DARE HE DIE BEFORE TELLING HIM WHERE HIS MOTHER IS!
HE REALIZES IT IS AN ANGRY AND SILLY REACTION, ONE HE EXPERIENCES SHAME AT HAVING; THERE IS NO TIME FOR ANGER OR SHAME NOW.
A SOLDIER HAS ALREADY COME THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR.
FOLLOW ME, ZANTI!
ZANTI MIGHT BE KILLED, IF HE DOESN'T ACT QUICKLY.
ARE YOU CRAZY? I CAN'T DO THAT.

HE HAS ALREADY LOST A LITTLE BOY AND SLADE TONIGHT. HE WILL NOT LOSE ANYMORE.
DO IT NOW, ZANTI! GET UP THOSE SHELVES ANY WAY YOU CAN.
EASY FOR HIM TO SAY--DO THIS, DO THAT!
AND IF YOU DON'T, THEN YOU'LL PROBABLY END UP DEAD!
ZANTI WINCES. NEARLY TORE HIS ARM OUT OF HIS SOCKET. SHOULD GO ALONG NICELY WITH HIS WRENCHED BACK
I'VE GOT YOU!
OH, EVERY MUSCLE IN HIS BODY WILL COMPLAIN ABOUT THIS ABUSE WHEN HE WAKES TOMORROW
BAM
ASSUMING HE WAS THE CHANCE TO SLEEP.
VAN DER MERWE REMEMBERS NOW EINER LOCKED IN THE HOSPITAL BED, A BROKEN RIB BONE LEAVING A BLOOD-CLOGGED HOLE IN HIS LUNG.
PUT IT UP! WE'RE SURROUNDING THE PLACE!
YOU COULDN'T SEE THE JAGGED EDGE OF BONE IN GREY LUNG TISSUE, BUT YOU COULD HEAR IT WHEN EINER BREATHED--
--BREATH AS SHARP AS THE EDGES OF SPLINTERED RIB CAGE.
YOU'LL NEVER GET HIM. NOTHING FOR HIM TO BE OFF THAT ROOF AND AWAY.
I'VE SEEN IT, I TELL YOU!
NOW, I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING SGT. I LET YOU COME ALONG WITH ME ON THIS PURSUIT BECAUSE YOU'D HAD PERSONAL CONTACT WITH THE MAN
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT HELP ME CATCH HIM QUICKER BUT I'M NOT MAGISTRATE PRETORIUS, WHO LOVES TO PONTIFICATE ON THE TUBE, OR CODDLES INSUBORDINATES, AFRAID HE MIGHT LOSE A VOTE IF HE HURTS THEIR POOR, LITTLE FEELINGS!
NOW YOU LISTEN CLOSE, SGT
YOU EVER DISOBEY AN ORDER FROM ME AGAIN...
I DON'T HEAR YOU
YOU IGNORED ME. I DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO THAT SGT., AND YOU
BETTER KEEP THAT IN MIND IN THE FUTURE!


MWO MOSHIGO WILLS THE TWO TO KEEP ARGUING. IT'S BEEN A DISASTROUS NIGHT, BUT MAYBE HE WILL LUCK OUT AGAIN.
AS SOON AS HE OPENS HIS EYES, ZANTI CHIKANE NODS HIS HEAD IN CONFIRMATION OF HIS ACHING PREDICTIONS. EVERY JOINT THROBS AND CREAKS AND CHASTISES HIM.
MAYBE HIS BODY WAS SO STIFF FROM SLEEPING MOST OF THE DAY IN THE CRAMPED QUARTERS OF THE SONAR GLIDER. IMAGINE--SLEEPING DURING THE DAY
MORE LIKELY THOUGH, THE CRAVINGS CAME FROM LEAPING OUT OF TREES--
--AND THROUGH ROOFTOPS.
THE MAGISTRATE OF COMMUNICATIONS IN PRETORIA IS ON THE MONITORS AGAIN. HE CAN NEVER REMEMBER THE MAN'S NAME. T'CHALLA MUST HAVE MANY OF THEM LOSING SLEEP, ALSO.
...AND SO, WHILE WE HAVE NOT CAPTURED THE BLACK PANTHER--
OOOOOHHHHH
--I AM ASSURED OUR TROOPS ARE CLOSING IN ON HIM. INEVITABLY HE WILL BE BROUGHT IN TO JUSTICE, AND THE TERRIBLE COST OF HIS VIOLENCE... THE DEATHS LEFT IN HIS WAKE ... WHICH NOW INCLUDES A YOUNG BOY--
--WILL BE ACCOUNTED FOR. THIS IS ANTON PRETORIUS BIDDING YOU A GOOD NIGHT
THEY'RE BLAMING EVERY--
AHH!
--THING ON YOU!
WE NOW RETURN YOU TO OUR REGULAR SHOWING OF "HILL ST BLUES"
THE COMRADS AND "FATHERS" AREN'T EVEN MENTIONED
NOT THAT I THOUGHT WE WOULD HEAR ANYTHING BUT WHAT THE GOVERNMENT DECIDES THE PEOPLE SHOULD HEAR. DO YOU THINK THEY REALLY BELIEVE YOU KILLED THAT BOY?
I DON'T KNOW.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M GOING TO TRY TO LOCATE SARAH SLADE.
IF THEY RECOGNIZE YOU...
I'VE GOT TO TAKE THE CHANCE.
THAT'S THE SAME AS RISK SN'T IT?
NOT ALWAYS.
EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE TO ME SOMETIME.

SARAH SLADE STARES AT THE DRIED BLOOD ON THE FLOOR.
ALREADY COVERED WITH DUST.
EARLIER, GINNY HAD TRIED TO GET HER TO LEAVE, SAID SHE SHOULDN'T STAY HERE.
GINNY WAS PROBABLY RIGHT.
WHAT GOOD DID IT DO TO WANDER EMPTY ROOMS, STARING AT FAMILIAR THINGS, ITEMS SHE HAD STARED THROUGH FOR MONTHS--
--SCRUTINIZED NOW THAT THEY HAD REACHED A STATE BEYOND BATTERED...
...BROKEN.
MRS SLADE...
YOU?
HERE?
KNOW YOU RIGHT OFF, MASK OR NO MASK.
BY YOUR STARE.
WAS A MAN HERE, EARLIER TODAY, WHO FIGURED YOU'D RETURN. BUT NOT ME.
THEN AGAIN I DON'T KNOW... MAYBE I DID ...WHAT'S THAT WORD ...WHEN YOU KNOW SOMETHING--
--YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU KNOW.
NEVER MIND. DOESN'T MATTER. I TOLD THE MAN I WOULDN'T BE SEEING YOU.
WHY SHOULD I? YOU ONLY MURDERED MY HUSBAND.
I DID NOT KILL YOUR HUSBAND.
MAYBE... MAYBE YOU THINK... I DIDN'T LOVE PATRICK. HMPH! IT'S TRUE, HE DIDN'T GIVE A #!☆@?!! ABOUT FOLKS OTHER THAN HIMSELF.
BUT I'M NOT MUCH DIFFERENT.
AND HE DIDN'T TREAT ME BAD
LION BEER
YOU KNOW WHAT I REALIZED TODAY... I LIKED HIM.
I USED TO RAZZ HIM ABOUT HIS HIGH-FALLUTIN' PLANS. IT WAS LIKE HE SAW THE WORDS "BIG SCORE" LIT UP IN NEON.
HE THOUGHT WHEN IT CAME IT WAS FATE. YOU GET THE CHANCE AND YOU GRAB IT AND YOU'RE A SUCCESS.

☆?!! HE DIDN'T KNOW NOTHING ABOUT SUCCESS ...BUT HE WAS ALWAYS IN THERE SLUGGIN'. SO WHAT, WE WEREN'T PASSIONATE OR NOTHIN', YOU GET MY DRIFT. NO LOVEY-DOVEY KIND OF STUFF--
--BUT WE'D BOTH SETTLED ON EACH OTHER.

YEAH, SURE... HE'D LOOK AT THOSE LONG-LIMBED WOMEN ...BUT HE KNEW THEY WEREN'T FOR HIM :SWALLOW:...

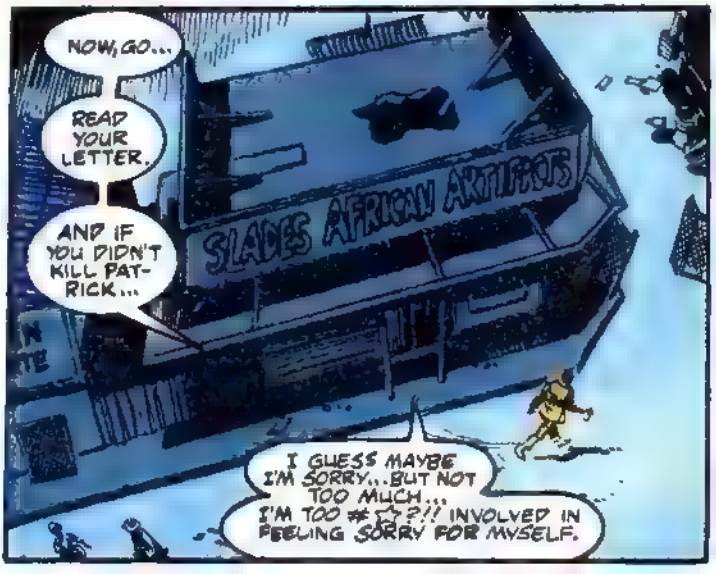
THIS.
--WAS LEFT FOR YOU... LIKE THE MAN SAID.. "IN CASE YOU STOPPED BY."

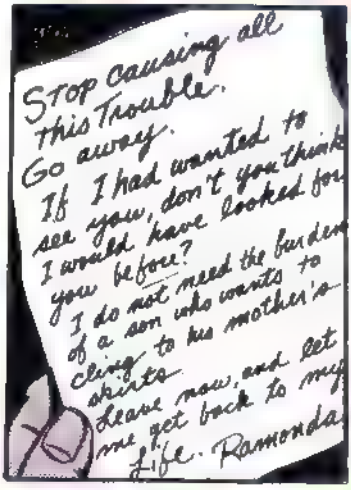
WHO LEFT IT?
HEARD SOME BUDDY OF HIS CALL HIM STRIKE. DROVE OFF IN A RICKETY VOLKS-WAGON TOWARD JOHANNES-BURG.

BUT I GOT YOUR ATTENT ON NOW, HUH? AT FIRST, I WAS GOING TO RIP THIS UP, I THOUGHT... TO #☆?! WITH YOU.
BUT THEN IT CAME TO ME...

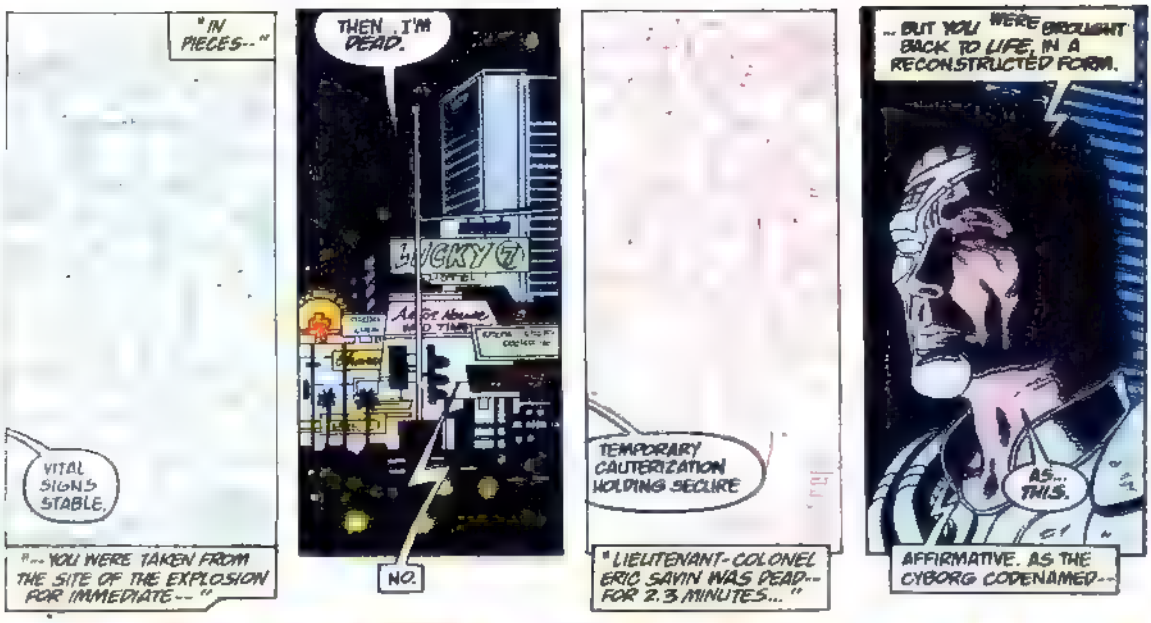
... MAYBE THIS IS MORE PAINFUL... HURT YOU MORE IF YOU DO SEE IT.
I OPENED IT UP AND READ IT... AND IF YOU DID SHOW... DECIDED TO LET YOU HAVE IT.

I'LL REPEAT, I WAS NOT THE ONE WHO KILLED YOUR HUSBAND.
MAYBE YOU DIDN'T. ONLY THING I KNOW IS... I'M SURPRISED.
AT WHAT?
THAT I MISS THE SON OF A #☆?!! SO MUCH.

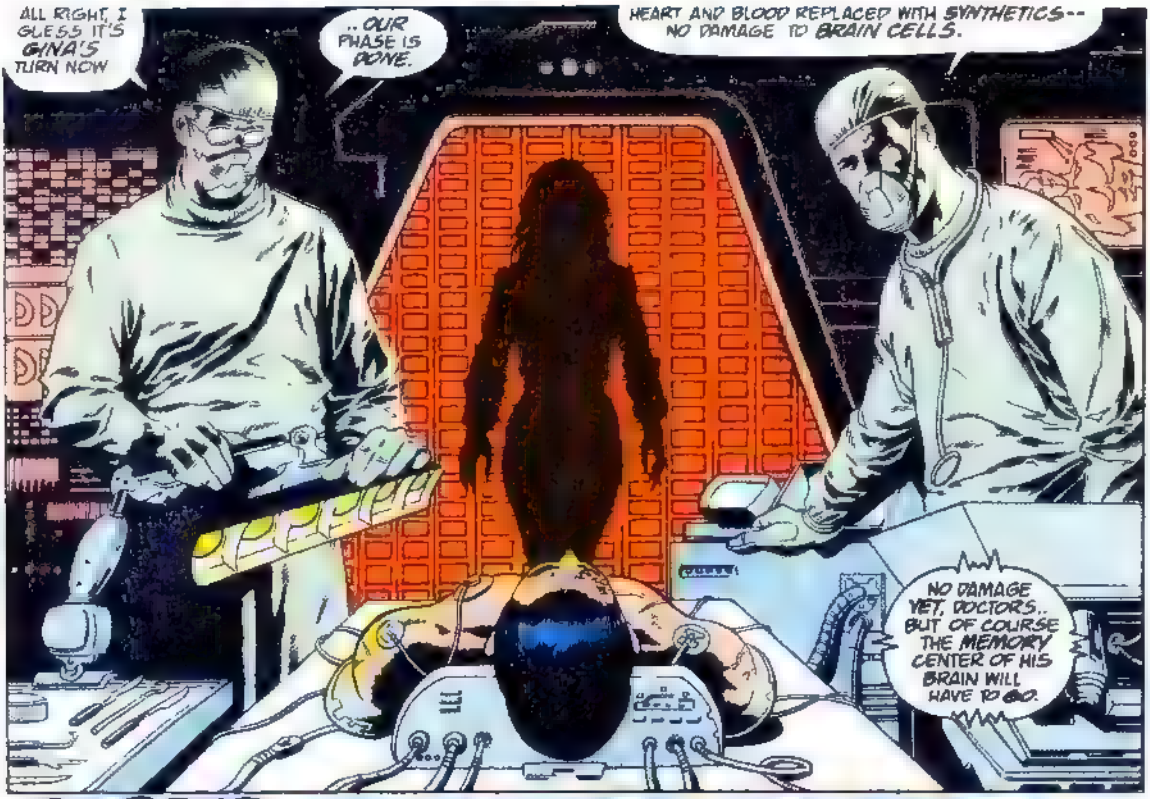

NOW, GO...
READ YOUR LETTER.
AND IF YOU DIDN'T KILL PAT-RICK...
SLADES AFRICAN ARTIFACTS
I GUESS MAYBE I'M SORRY... BUT NOT TOO MUCH... I'M TOO #☆?!! INVOLVED IN FEELING SORRY FOR MYSELF.


Stop causing all
this Trouble.
Go away.
If I had wanted to
see you, don't you think
I would have looked for
you before?
I do not need the burden
of a son who wants to
cling to his mother's
skirts.
Leave now, and let
me get back to my
life. Ramonda

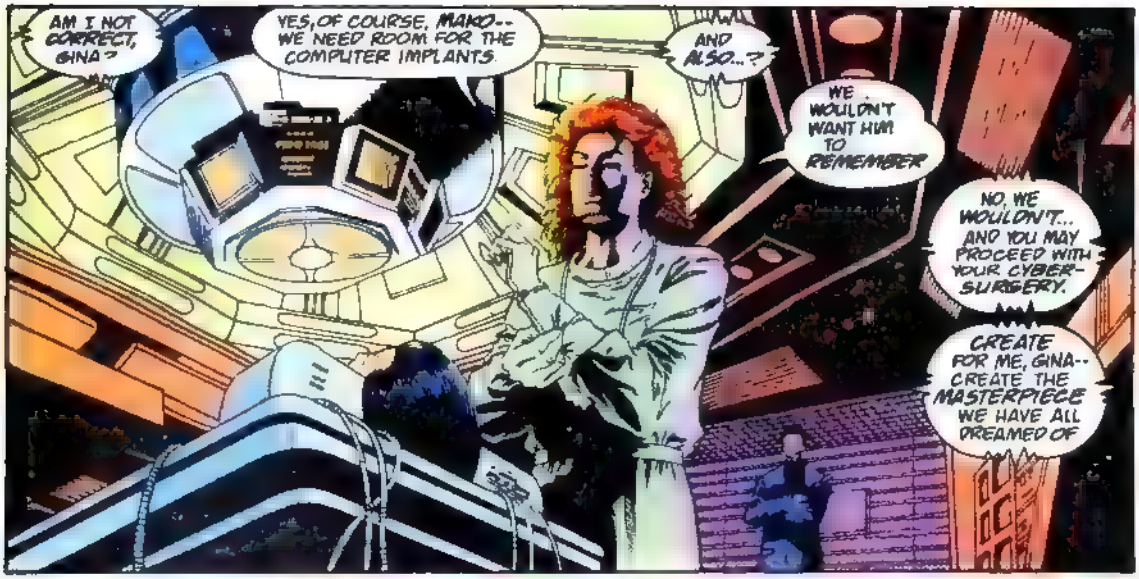
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE. .


"IN PIECES--"
"--YOU WERE TAKEN FROM THE SITE OF THE EXPLOSION FOR IMMEDIATE--"
VITAL SIGNS STABLE.
THEN I'M DEAD.
NO.
"LIEUTENANT-COLONEL ERIC SAVIN WAS DEAD-- FOR 2.3 MINUTES..."
TEMPORARY CAUTERIZATION HOLDING SECURE
--BUT YOU WERE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE, IN A RECONSTRUCTED FORM.
AS... THIS.
AFFIRMATIVE. AS THE CYBORG CODENAMED--

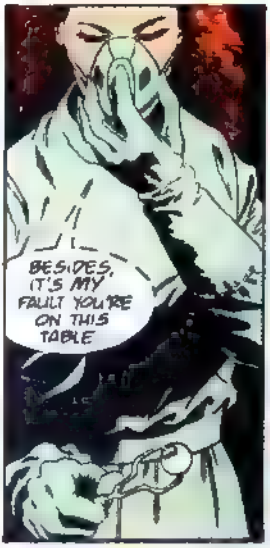
COLDBLOOD IN: RISE AND SHINE

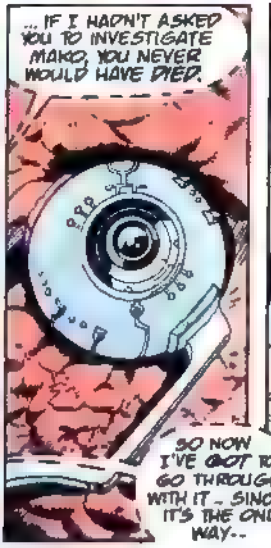

ALL RIGHT, I GUESS IT'S GINA'S TURN NOW
..OUR PHASE IS DONE.
HEART AND BLOOD REPLACED WITH SYNTHETICS-- NO DAMAGE TO BRAIN CELLS.
NO DAMAGE YET, DOCTORS.. BUT OF COURSE THE MEMORY CENTER OF HIS BRAIN WILL HAVE TO GO.

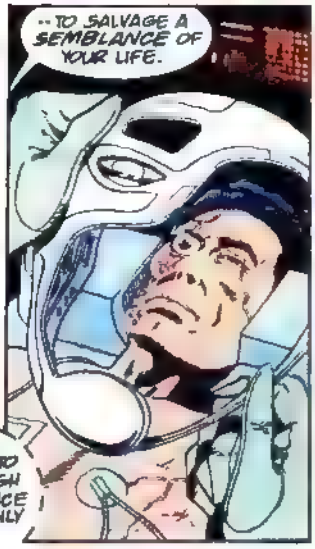
CHAPTER VI: OPERATING THEATER

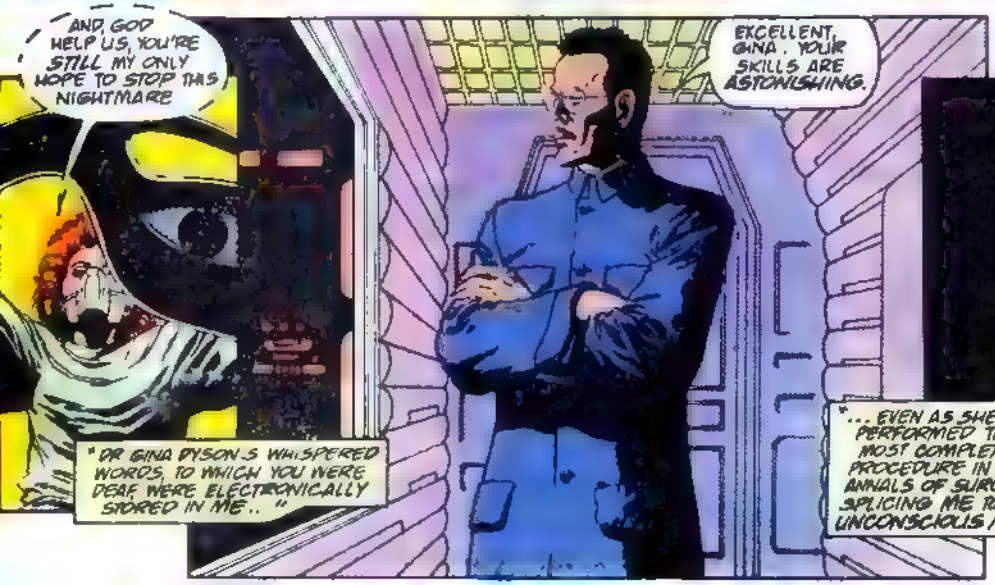

AM I NOT CORRECT, GINA?
YES, OF COURSE, MAKO-- WE NEED ROOM FOR THE COMPUTER IMPLANTS.
AND ALSO...?
WE WOULDN'T WANT HIM TO REMEMBER
NO, WE WOULDN'T... AND YOU MAY PROCEED WITH YOUR CYBER-SURGERY.
CREATE FOR ME, GINA-- CREATE THE MASTERPIECE WE HAVE ALL DREAMED OF

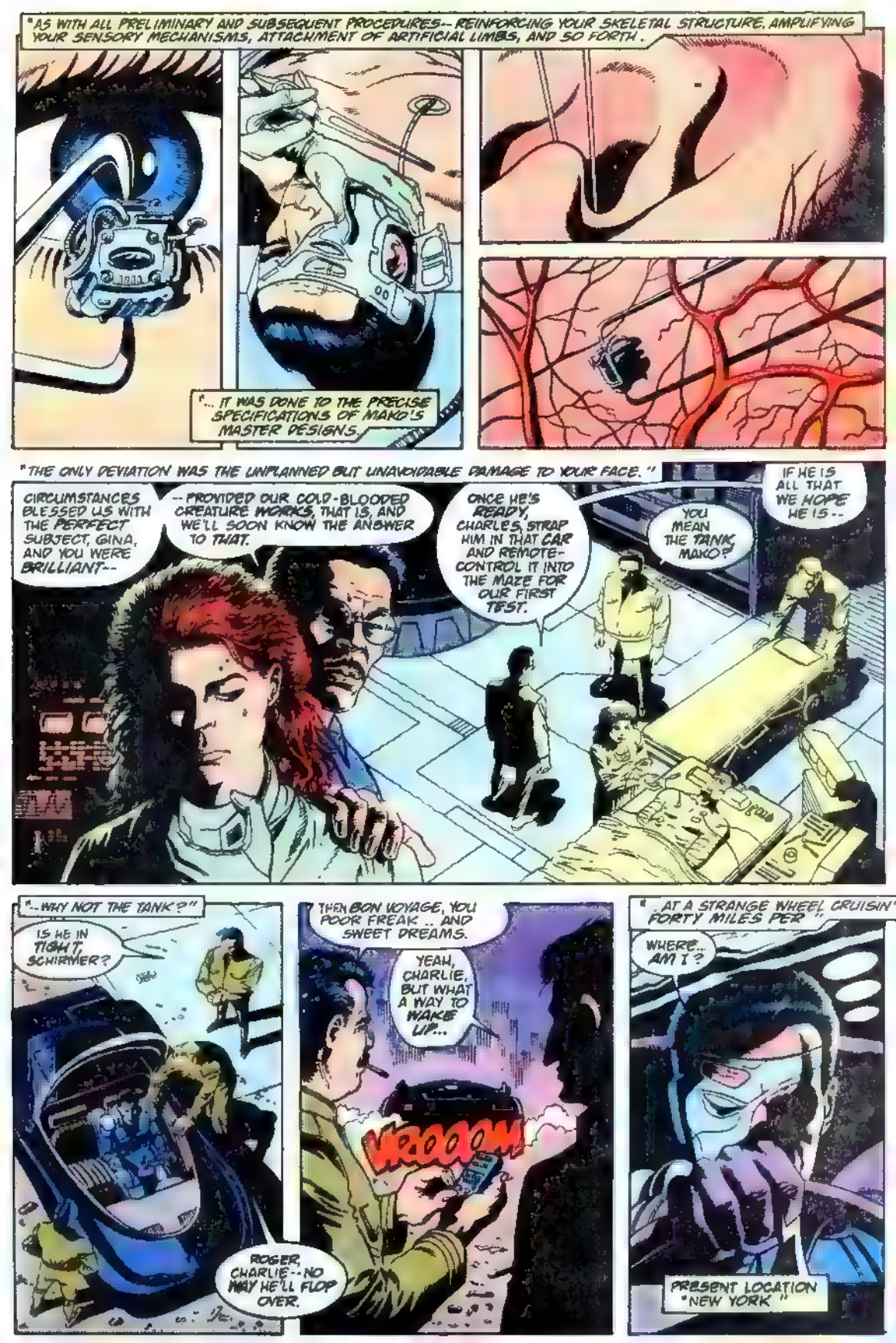
I CAN'T BALK NOW, SAVIN, OR THEY'LL KILL ME TOO.


BESIDES, IT'S MY FAULT YOU'RE ON THIS TABLE

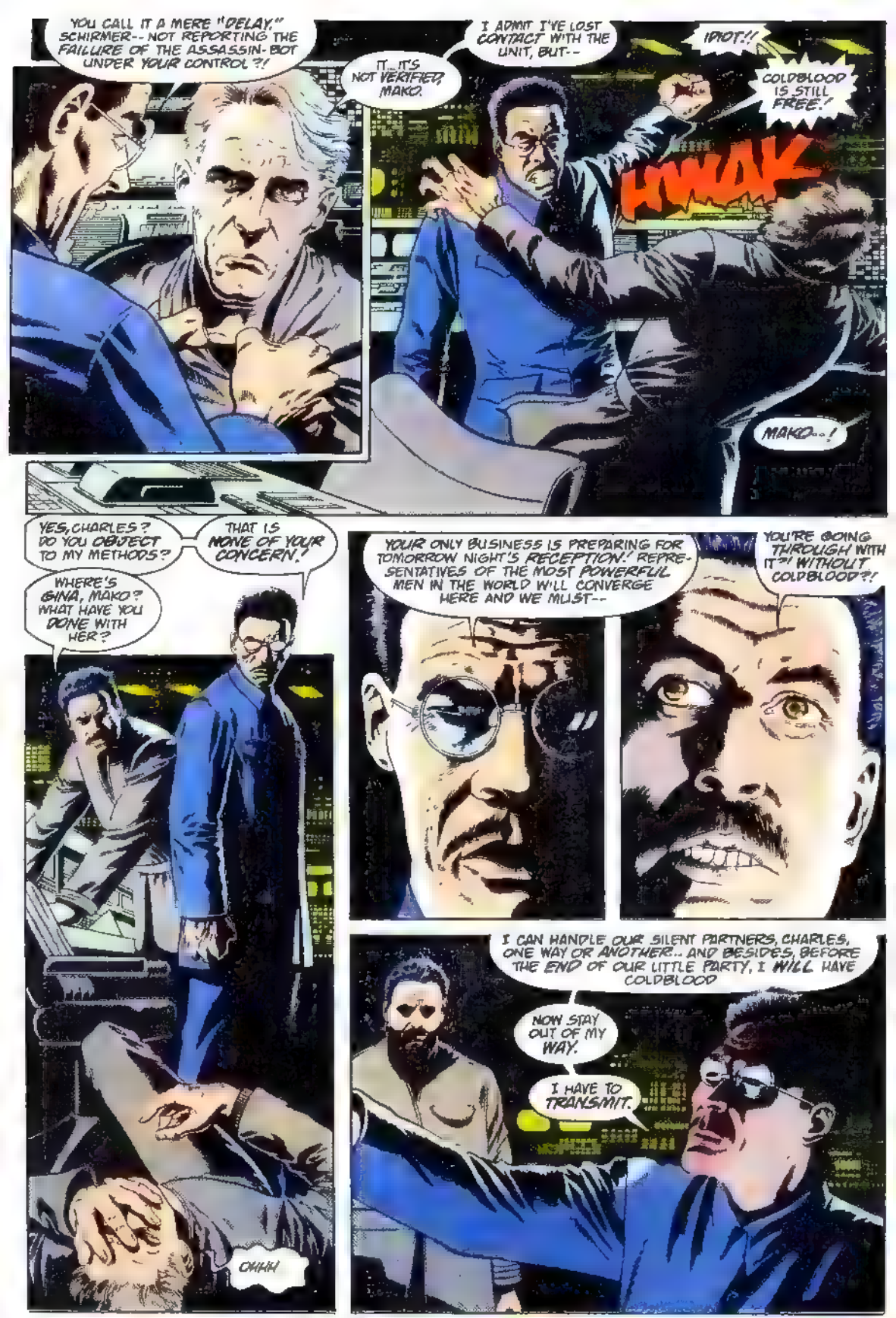

...IF I HADN'T ASKED YOU TO INVESTIGATE MAKO, YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE DIED.
SO NOW I'VE GOT TO GO THROUGH WITH IT - SINCE IT'S THE ONLY WAY--


...TO SALVAGE A SEMBLANCE OF YOUR LIFE.

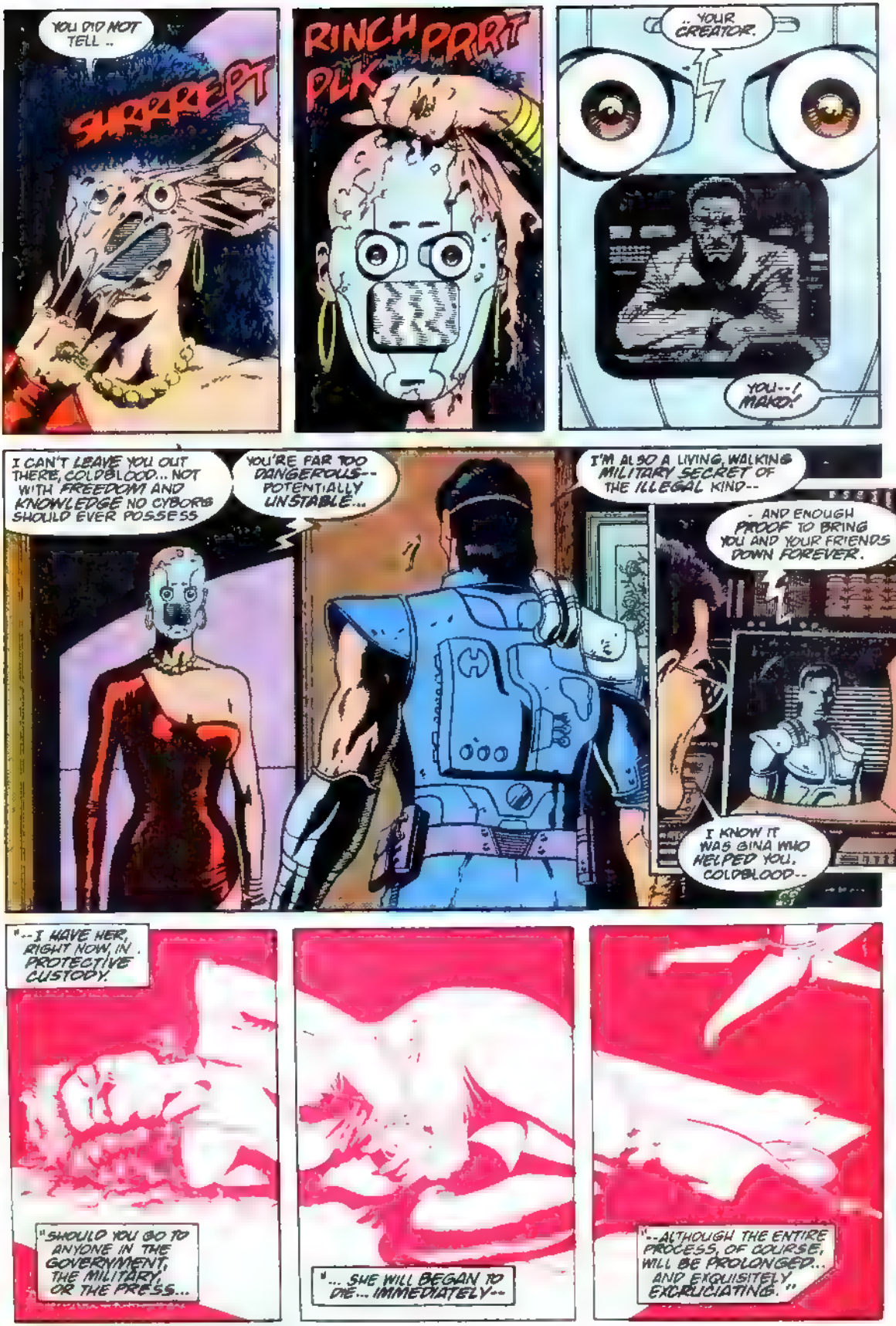

AND, GOD HELP US, YOU'RE STILL MY ONLY HOPE TO STOP THIS NIGHTMARE
EXCELLENT, GINA. YOUR SKILLS ARE ASTONISHING.
"DR GINA DYSON-S WHISPERED WORDS, TO WHICH YOU WERE DEAF WERE ELECTRONICALLY STORED IN ME.. "
"...EVEN AS SHE PERFORMED THE MOST COMPLEX PROCEDURE IN THE ANNALS OF SURGERY.. SPLICING ME TO YOUR UNCONSCIOUS MIND."


"AS WITH ALL PRELIMINARY AND SUBSEQUENT PROCEDURES-- REINFORCING YOUR SKELETAL STRUCTURE, AMPLIFYING YOUR SENSORY MECHANISMS, ATTACHMENT OF ARTIFICIAL LIMBS, AND SO FORTH.
"... IT WAS DONE TO THE PRECISE SPECIFICATIONS OF MAKO'S MASTER DESIGNS.
"THE ONLY DEVIATION WAS THE UNPLANNED BUT UNAVOIDABLE DAMAGE TO YOUR FACE."
CIRCUMSTANCES BLESSED US WITH THE PERFECT SUBJECT, GINA, AND YOU WERE BRILLIANT--
-- PROVIDED OUR COLD-BLOODED CREATURE WORKS, THAT IS, AND WE'LL SOON KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT.
ONCE HE'S READY, CHARLES, STRAP HIM IN THAT CAR AND REMOTE-CONTROL IT INTO THE MAZE FOR OUR FIRST TEST.
YOU MEAN THE TANK, MAKO?
IF HE IS ALL THAT WE HOPE HE IS --
"-- WHY NOT THE TANK?"
IS HE IN TIGHT, SCHIRMER?
ROGER, CHARLIE -- NO WAY HE'LL FLOP OVER.
THEN BON VOYAGE, YOU POOR FREAK .. AND SWEET DREAMS.
YEAH, CHARLIE, BUT WHAT A WAY TO WAKE UP...
KRAAOOOM!
". . AT A STRANGE WHEEL CRUISIN' FORTY MILES PER "
WHERE.. AM I?
PRESENT LOCATION "NEW YORK"

"ONCE AWAKENED, WE WERE A NEW BEING, YOU WITHOUT MEMORY, ME WITH PROGRAMMED LOCKS ON MY DATA-STORES"
WHO AM I?
YOU ARE COLDBLOOD-7, AN URBAN SOLDIER CYBORG WITH WETWARE-GRAFTED COMPUTER, SYNTHETIC HEMOGLOBIN, PLASTISTEEL-REINFORCED SKELETON, ONBOARD 357mm AUTOMATIC--
WHO AM I?
YOU ARE NOW THE TARGET OF AN ELITE PURSUER-9 ASSAULT TANK CLOSING FAST ON PRESENT LOCA--
"THIS IS WHERE I CAME IN, COMPUTER. EXCEPT NOW I KNOW WHO I AM-- OR WHO I WAS-- BUT IT'S LIKE KNOWING THE BIOGRAPHY OF A STRANGER... AND FEELING NONE OF IT"
OPEN THE VAN-- IT'S ME.
-- STILL AWAITING YOUR UPDATE, SCHIRMER
YES OR NO-- HAS THE ASSASSIN-BOT LOCATED COLDBLOOD YET?
I UH SORRY ABOUT THE DELAY, MAKO, BUT I'M, UH, TRYING TO-
INCOMING TRANSMISSION, MAKO-- FROM THE VAN IN VEGAS
IT'S AGENT FIVE.
HE'S HERE-- I JUST LEFT HIM IN THE LUCKY 7 MOTEL.
I SEE.
UH OH
VERY WELL, FIVE..
STAND BY WITH OPEN CHANNEL FOR MY TRANSMISSION.


YOU CALL IT A MERE "DELAY," SCHIRMER-- NOT REPORTING THE FAILURE OF THE ASSASSIN-BOT UNDER YOUR CONTROL?!
IT...IT'S NOT VERIFIED, MAKO.
I ADMIT I'VE LOST CONTACT WITH THE UNIT, BUT--
IDIOT!!
COLDBLOOD IS STILL FREE!
HWAK
MAKO--!
YES, CHARLES? DO YOU OBJECT TO MY METHODS?
THAT IS NONE OF YOUR CONCERN!
WHERE'S GINA, MAKO? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HER?
OHHH
YOUR ONLY BUSINESS IS PREPARING FOR TOMORROW NIGHT'S RECEPTION! REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MOST POWERFUL MEN IN THE WORLD WILL CONVERGE HERE AND WE MUST--
YOU'RE GOING THROUGH WITH IT?! WITHOUT COLDBLOOD?!
I CAN HANDLE OUR SILENT PARTNERS, CHARLES, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.. AND BESIDES, BEFORE THE END OF OUR LITTLE PARTY, I WILL HAVE COLDBLOOD
NOW STAY OUT OF MY WAY.
I HAVE TO TRANSMIT.

"ERIC SAVIN"... SEVEN...
THEN YOU MADE ME CHOOSE THIS MOTEL--EVEN THE ROOM NUMBER...
THERE WAS A CERTAIN IRRESISTIBLE SUBCONSCIOUS SUGGESTION PLANTED IN YOUR--
YOU'VE GOT A SICK SENSE OF HUMOR.
YES, MAKO ONCE MADE TOYS.
SMALLER VERSIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, OF US.
TELL ME, COMPUTER-- CAN I EVER BE RID OF YOU?
AFFIRMATIVE, BUT WHILE I COULD BE EASILY SALVAGED AFTER REMOVAL... YOU WOULD DIE.
NOW, COLDBLOOD, I SUGGEST CALLING THE CAR.
DID I SEE GINA DYSON AGAIN - BEFORE SHE BROUGHT US BACK TO LIFE?
AFFIRMATIVE
ON THE NIGHT BEFORE YOUR TRANSFER TO MAKO'S COMPLEX, YOU EXCHANGED FURTHER INFORMATION AND BECAME LOVERS.
CAR EN ROUTE; E.T.A. SEVEN MIN--
BZZT
HIYA, DARTH VADER.
I TOLD YOU-- I DON'T WANT COMPANY.
NO.
...YOU TOLD AN EMPTY, SOULLESS "WOMAN".


YOU DID NOT TELL ..
SHRRRRPT
RINCH PRRT PLK
.. YOUR CREATOR.
YOU--! MAKO!
I CAN'T LEAVE YOU OUT THERE, COLDBLOOD.. NOT WITH FREEDOM AND KNOWLEDGE NO CYBORG SHOULD EVER POSSESS
YOU'RE FAR TOO DANGEROUS-- POTENTIALLY UNSTABLE...
I'M ALSO A LIVING, WALKING MILITARY SECRET OF THE ILLEGAL KIND--
- AND ENOUGH PROOF TO BRING YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS DOWN FOREVER.
I KNOW IT WAS GINA WHO HELPED YOU, COLDBLOOD--
"--I HAVE HER, RIGHT NOW, IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY.
"SHOULD YOU GO TO ANYONE IN THE GOVERNMENT, THE MILITARY, OR THE PRESS...
"... SHE WILL BEGAN TO DIE... IMMEDIATELY--
"--ALTHOUGH THE ENTIRE PROCESS, OF COURSE, WILL BE PROLONGED.. AND EXQUISITELY EXCRUCIATING."

COME HOME TO FATHER, COLDBLOOD! TAKE YOUR PUNISHMENT!--JUST A FEW SIMPLE MODIFICATIONS--AND GINA WILL LIVE...
WHO KNOWS? AFTER A LENGTHY STAY IN ONE OF THE BETTER INSTITUTIONS, PERHAPS SHE WILL EVEN EMERGE AS A SLIGHTLY PRODUCTIVE MEMBER OF SOCIETY.
YOU FILTHY STINKING--
YOUR ANSWER, COLDBLOOD?
KRAK
CHUNK
END OF TRANSMISSION, CHARLES-- AND TIME TO PREPARE GRAND CENTRAL STATION FOR OUR GALA BASH
AS YOU JUST WITNESSED, THE FINAL INVITATION HAS BEEN ACCEPTED.
HE'S COMING.
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...

EXCALIBUR WAS SPENDING A QUIET EVENING AT HOME
FOR ONCE, ALL WAS CALM. THE EARTH WAS NOT BEING THREATENED
NO ONE WAS ATTACKING.
NOTHING SEEMED AMISS.
THAT'S OVER NOW.
NO! IT CAN'T BE
EXCALIBUR
IN
HAVING A WILD WEEKEND! PART 1

TAZZA WILD WEEKEND

WHAT IS IT, KITTY?
I'M NOT SURE, RACHEL... BUT SOMETHING VERY STRANGE IS GOING ON AROUND HERE!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M FINE, MEGGAN.
THEN TRY TO REMAIN CALM, KATECHEN..
..AND TELL US WHAT'S WRONG.
FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, NIGHTCRAWLER, NOTHING... JUST KITTY'S OVERACTIVE IMAGINATION.
GIVE HER A CHANCE, BRIAN!
FINE THEN YOU'LL ALL SEE THAT THERE'S REALLY NO PROBLEM AT ALL!
GUESS AGAIN
SURPRISE!
SEE, I TOLD YOU! THE COMPUTER'S GONE CRAZY. IT'S DOING THINGS THAT ARE..

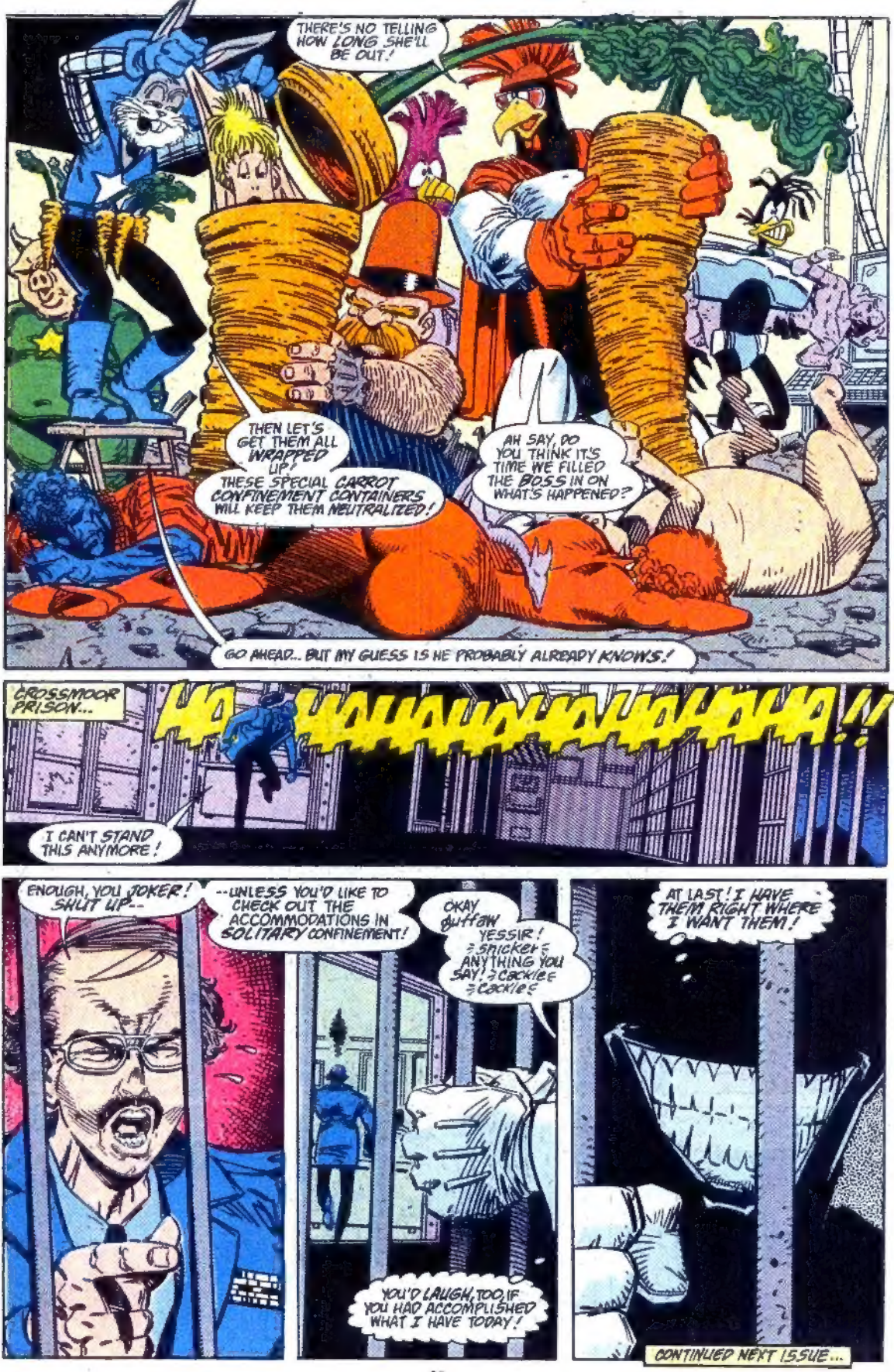
THE LOONIES!
-IMPOSSIBLE!
YOU WERE SAYING, CAPTAIN BRITAIN...?
FORGET ABOUT THAT! I'LL APOLOGIZE LATER!
RIGHT NOW...
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT A FIGHT ON OUR HANDS!

WHO IN THE WORLD ARE YOU GUYS, ANYWAY?
ME, I'M GUNS GUMMY.
THE GUY WITH THE GOGGLES HERE, THE BIG BIRD-- AND I DON'T MEAN THE ONE FROM SESAME STREET, IS CALLED ROOSTER COCKBURN!
HEY! STAY BACK. I'VE BARELY BEGUN THE INTROS.
I'M WARNING YOU.
ZZPPT
"THE DAFFY-LOOKING ONE WITH THE DARK FEATHERS IS BILLY BIRD!"
SLICH
HAVE YOU NOT HEARD THE OLD EXPRESSION, MEIN FREUND.. NEVER SEND A BIRD TO DO A MAN'S WORK!
THEY THERTAINLY WEREN'T TALKING ABOUT BILLY BIRD, BUTHTER...
.. AND THEY WEREN'T COUNTING ON MY RATHOR-SHARP PLUMAGE!
ACTUALLY, WE'RE MORE OUT OF THIS WORLD...
AND, DIDN'T YOU SEE OUR LOGO?
WE'RE THE LOONIES! WE PAID BIG-BUCKS FOR THAT AND WE'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D PAY ATTENTION!
IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THIS SPECTACULAR SEXTET, I'D BE HONORED TO TAKE CARE OF THE INTRODUCTIONS AS WE GO ALONG!
YOU'RE STILL CHANGING!
DUB-A-DUH--THE TWO OF US COULD MAKE BEAUTIFUL PIGLETS TOGETHER, MS. PIGGY!
SQUAWK! SQUOINK! OINK!
FIDDLE FADDLE! GUESS I'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RESORT TO THE SUPER STUTTER SYNDROME! THAT OUGHT TO SLOW HER DOWN!
W-W-WOW! I CAN'T BELIEVE I SAID THE WHOLE THING!

SPLAT
CAPTAIN BRITAIN TRIES TO CONTINUE HIS ATTACK-- BUT IT IS USELESS. IT IS AS IF EVERY MUSCLE HAS BEEN TURNED TO SILLY PUTTY
THE RESULTS ARE INSTANTANEOUS.
"WE CALL THE LITTLE GUY WITH THE MUSTACHE AND THE TEN-GALLON HAT, SOUTHPAW."
HOLD STILL, VARMINT!
"TWO DEMERITS IF YOU CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHICH ONE IS THE HAM."
ROARR
OH, MY-- YOU ARE A FR-FR-FR--
-- SCARY ONE!
OH, IS THE LITTLE PIGGY AFRAID OF THE BIG, BAD WOLF?
MY, WHAT BIG TEETH YOU'VE GOT!
UN-A-UN-A-FOR-FOR...
TOO BAD THEY WON'T HELP YOU AT ALL!
MY FORM HAS REVERTED TO NORMAL!
HEY! HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
S-S-SUPER-POWERS!
RIGHT NOW YOU'RE STILL IN MID T-TRANS-TRANSFOR-TRANS--
"OUR LONG-NECKED FRIEND GOES BY THE NOM DE PLUME OF TAILGUNNER!"
WOOP
HEEEE-HEEEE! YOU MISSED ME!
AND NOW IT'S TIME I SHOWED YOU GUYS WHAT MY FEATHERS CAN DO!
WOMP
THIS ONE'S FOR YOU, METAL-MAN!
YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK I'D BE STUPID ENOUGH TO RUN RIGHT INTO YOU, DID YOU?

HE'S GOT ME CORNERED! IF I DON'T WANT TO BE SLASHED TO BITS, I HAVE NO CHOICE...
..I'VE GOT TO TELEPORT!
BAM
PLOOSH
HE ALMOST GOT ME THAT TIME!
I'M NOT SURE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF HE DID CONNECT...
YOU CANNOT CONCEIVE OF THE CHALLENGE YOU HAVE UNDERTAKEN!
THE POWER OF THE PHOENIX IS FAR GREATER THAN ANY YOU HAVE EVER IMAGINED!
YOU DON'T SAY.
HA!HA!HA!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF THE POWER OF THE ROOSTER AROUSED?!
MY MIND!
THE PAIN--
--UNBEARABLE!
IF ONLY YOUR PSIONIC POWERS DIDN'T LEAVE YOU SO DANG SUSCEPTIBLE TO MY MENTAL COMMANDS!
MBMMBLL
DON'T EVEN TRY TO SPEAK, HERO! NONE OF YOUR MUSCLES WILL RESPOND TO YOUR COMMANDS!
AND I USED MY POWER TO SLOW THIS ONE DOWN UNTIL SHE FINALLY C-COL-COLLAP.COL--
--DROPPED!
DON'T YA THINK THIS ONE MAKES A PRETTY STATUE?

... BUT I'M NOT WILLING TO TAKE THE CHANCE...
... SO I'LL JUST PHASE UP BEHIND HIM!
PEEK-A-BOO!
WHAT'S THE MATTER-- KITTY GOT YOUR GUN?
GUESS IT WON'T BE MUCH USE TO YOU NOW!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, HONEY-CHILE!
THIS 'STACHE AINT JUST FOR SHOW!
SPLAT
NO! NO! IT IS THE ONE THING I FEAR THE MOST!
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
I WILL NOT BE ENSLAVED AGAIN!
I MUST BE FREE!
I MUST BE FREE!
BAMF
CAN'T OVERUSE MY POWER!
HADN'T FULLY RESTED!
I'M DAZED-- CAN'T GET MY BEARINGS...
ARRGH!
SLASH
SO NICE TO SLASH YOU AGAIN!
I'M THROUGH TOYING AROUND WITH YOU!
LET'S SEE IF YOU GUYS ARE MORE POWERFUL THAN A LOCOMOTIVE!
CRASH
BASH
I GUESS NOT!
HE WON'T LOOK GOOD NO MATTER WHAT WE DO!
MAYBE WE'LL BE LUCKY AND HE'LL BLEED TO DEATH!
THE BOSS WANTS 'EM ALL ALIVE!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THESE THINGS WERE ALIVE TO BEGIN WITH! HEEEE-HEEE!
SHE WAS DEFEATED BY A HORROR CREATED BY HER OWN MIND-- WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM YOURS TRULY, OF COURSE!
WE'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL WITH HER!


THERE'S NO TELLING HOW LONG SHE'LL BE OUT!
THEN LET'S GET THEM ALL WRAPPED UP! THESE SPECIAL CARROT CONFINEMENT CONTAINERS WILL KEEP THEM NEUTRALIZED!
AH SAY, DO YOU THINK IT'S TIME WE FILLED THE BOSS IN ON WHAT'S HAPPENED?
GO AHEAD... BUT MY GUESS IS HE PROBABLY ALREADY KNOWS!
CROSSMOOR PRISON...
HAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!
I CAN'T STAND THIS ANYMORE!
ENOUGH, YOU JOKER! SHUT UP--
--UNLESS YOU'D LIKE TO CHECK OUT THE ACCOMMODATIONS IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT!
OKAY BUTTAW YESSIR! SNICKER ANYTHING YOU SAY! CACKLE CACKLE
YOU'D LAUGH, TOO, IF YOU HAD ACCOMPLISHED WHAT I HAVE TODAY!
AT LAST! I HAVE THEM RIGHT WHERE I WANT THEM!
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL® READERS PRESENT

Dear Terry,

Well, you wanted comments, you've got them! MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #23 was generally interesting reading, offering something for every reader.

The Cyclops series is really shaping up. Bob Harras continues to excel at telling quality stories in a serial format. Each chapter is well-told and contains enough action and suspense to move the plot forward. And, with Ron Lim's shining pencils the characters have never looked better.

"Panther's Quest" proves that there are no poor characters, only poor storytellers. Don McGregor and Gene Colan have revived interest in the Black Panther with one of the most interesting storylines in comics today. Am I to assume that this will be collected in a trade paperback when it's all done?

I didn't have much interest in the Falcon story before reading it, but I plowed forward and came up with a real surprise . . . I liked it! While a little heavy-handed with the drug theme, Fabian Nicieza has proved himself a very able writer.

I'm sorry to say that the clunker of the bunch was the "Wheels" story. I felt that this "love" story was silly and unbelievable. It seemed out of place alongside the more complex themes of "Panther's Quest."

All in all, this package was well worth the $1.25 price tag. That's what I appreciate about this title—the diversity of tales. Speaking of which, is there any chance we could see a real old-fashioned Western in these pages any time soon?

Mark Lucas
66 Cleary Ct. #902
San Francisco, CA 94109

Actually, we don't have any plans for a Western right now, Mark, but as we always say, we aim to please. So if the demand is there, we'll definitely print a genuine Western some time in the future. Also, you are quite right in your assumption that the "Panther's Quest" saga will be reprinted in the future in a high-quality trade paperback format. Look for it at your local comic shop sometime down the line!

Dear Marvel,

I've just finished reading issue #23 of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, and I enjoyed the stories. They all have excellent plots.

The Cyclops story was great, and it was obvious that it was leading up to a hopefully spectacular ending.

I have to say that I think the Black Panther story was kind of slow and dull. It could have had more action in it, but the poor guy is bleeding to death. It's beginning to look like he's going to leave a trail of his own blood all over South Africa before this storyline ends. In fact, I'm surprised that he hasn't dropped dead yet.

The Falcon story was interesting. All I can say is that we need more stories in comic books like the one you just told. Has anyone at Marvel thought about doing a real life story about drugs and the effect they have on people?

The love story with Wheels of Wolfpack was quite enjoyable. I like a love story done in the traditional Marvel way.

See you in two weeks!!

Ed Goldberg
1655 Juliet Drive
Petaluma, CA 94952

We're glad you liked most of the book, Ed . . . boy, you're hard to please sometimes, though. What do we have to do to the Black Panther to make it exciting enough for you? Put him in a love story with Shamrock? Or the new Captain Marvel? Uh-oh, we'd better stop before we give writer, Scott Lobdell, any more ideas for new stories . . .

Dear Terry,

I just read MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #23 and I'm going to review the stories as did Charles S. Novinskie in this issue's letters page, so without any further ado:

Cyclops: I must say that I have enjoyed this saga greatly. Ron's pencils bring out just the right amount of luster, much like they do in SILVER SURFER. And, although I've never previously been familiar with the writing of Bob Harras, I really enjoy it now. My compliments to Jeff Albrecht for a great inking job, too. Maybe we'll see more of Conscience?

Black Panther: I've read many back issues of JUNGLE ACTION, and boy, do I get a nostalgic feeling while reading this. The creative team is pure genius. My hat goes off to Don, Gene, and Tom.

Falcon: I'm a big fan of Fabian Nicieza's writing, and Dave Cockrum's artwork, but I found this story to be a bit of a let-down. I must say that I'm getting tired of stories about drugs. To tell you the truth, I think Marvel is *OD*'ing on drug stories.

Wheels: No comment . . .

One more thing, I'm tired of one-parters! Get rid of them. 'Nuff Said?

Ron Erickson
7820 Lakecrest Dr.
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Sorry, Ron, but even though we value your opinion, we're gonna stick with our one-shot stories for a while. We still think they're a good way to showcase lesser known characters. At least you liked half of the stories in the issue. We must say that a .500 average isn't too shabby . . .

Dear Marvel,

I just finished reading MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #23, and it was great! I like the Cyclops story, and I can't wait to see how it ends. I also like how the Black Panther story is going.

I have some requests for the future, though. First, could you please put Frankenstein's Monster in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS? I'd also like to see Angel, the USAgent, Speedball, Black Knight, Galactus, Quicksilver, and Eternity. Also, I heard that a new TOMB OF DRACULA series is coming out soon. Is this true?

Keep up the good work!

Daniel Brown
(Address withheld by request)

You heard right, Daniel, but we can't give you any details on that book right now (hey, we have enough trouble keeping track of what's in this book, let alone others). As for your requests on what you want to see here: Speedball and Black Knight will definitely be around soon. Quicksilver, USAgent, and Angel generate a lot of interest so you'll surely see something about all of those guys in the near future, too. As for Galactus and Eternity though, we're not too sure of those right at this moment. But in the future, who knows? Stranger things have happened . . .

Terry:

It's just two weeks shy of your first anniversary, and if I read it clearly, that issue of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS should feature the turnover of the "top" spot. Namely, Havok; am I right?

I would have objected strongly to this concept roughly three or four months ago on the basis that Scott Summers' little brother is focused on too much for such a boring character. But now, with the changes brought about during "Inferno," my interest in Havok has sparked. I sincerely hope Howard Mackie (the previewed scribe) will deal with these changes.

Another character whom I believe deserves a multi-part saga is the Human Torch. He, too, has recently undergone dramatic changes in the pages of FANTASTIC FOUR. And he has finally begun to interest me after my limited exposure to a character whom I believed had no character.

Chris Hines
RR 1 Debert
Nova Scotia B0M 1G0
CANADA

We hope you like what Howard has done with Havok, Chris—we sure do! Also, the Human Torch will be spotlighted, along with the other members of the F.F., some time in the near future. We'll give more details soon!

Dear Marvel Scribes,

When I walk into my local comics shop every other week, I love to see MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS waiting patiently for me at the front of the rack.

When I return home, I'm anxious to open the book and see how the Black Panther is faring.

Then, after digesting his latest adventure, I'll say to myself "When will I see the Black Panther in his own book again?" Do you happen to know the answer to this? Well, I hope to see it soon!

Jonny
12251 S. Wentworth
Chicago, IL 60628

We hope to see it soon too, Jonny, and we're working on it. And early next year, you can look for a new prestige format BLACK PANTHER Limited Series that will affect the Panther's life in a major, major way!

BLACK PANTHER
BY HIS OWN BLOOD BETRAYED!
COLDBLOOD
THE ORIGIN CONTINUES